

CHAPTER TWO

Allah And Violence

ONE thing we have to bear in mind is that Islam is spiritual, and a mere academic exercise in discussion of it will lead us nowhere. For example, it is easy for those who only hear or read about the violence and mysticism in Islam to explain away the religion only on exegetical levels. Violence in Islam is real and it is spiritual. No doubt, this is a very offensive area, but it is a fact all the same. And no matter how trenchant this may be, we know there are many honest Muslims who are ready to face and re-examine the facts and apply reason and not just get flared up emotionally.

Muslims And Christians, Must They Be Enemies?

Religious matters are perhaps the most complex issues in the world. In a speech on the need for peaceful co-existence of Muslims and Christians in the world, and particularly, in Nigeria, General Ibrahim Babangida a former President of Nigeria said:

"It may be a theological question whether God reveals himself or he reveals religion through his messenger, his prophet or his son. Irrespective of the position one takes on this issue, one should be reasonable enough to know that God, like the father of any household, can never be satisfied with members of the family who quarrel, fight, undermine and sometimes kill one another in his name."¹

The pity is that many of us are indeed conscious of what God is supposed to be, yet personally we may be serving a wrong god with all sincerity. Why, because we may have found ourselves in a system

¹ *New Nigerian*, October 19, 1988 p.3

and find it difficult to leave. Many of us do not see the need to leave a religious system because we may still be ignorant of the nature of the deception we have fallen into. If we can patiently journey together through this book, we may have to think again and reassess whatever it is we believe at present.

We believe that the pronouncement of General Babangida was made from an honest mind: "God can never be satisfied with quarrelling, fighting, undermining, killing in his name." That is true. But which God? Is it the common God, or Allah, the God of Mohammed? Or are they the same? That is the real 'theological question', and we need to discuss it.

We may need to link this question with a later event in Nigeria three years after this comment. In October 1991, German evangelist, Reinhard Bonnke, went to the city of Kano to preach. In their protest against the programme, the Muslims in Kano invited their fellow Jihâdist from Katsina State and embarked upon a riot that led to the slaughter of several Christians and Southern Nigerians in Kano. The Southerners felt that violence was not the monopoly of a particular people, and so took up arms against the Muslims until the latter were forced to ask for a ceasefire. Former President Babangida was on a visit outside the country then and had to rush back home. At the Airport in Lagos, he sympathized with the victims of the riot urging the nation to 'see the tragedy as a realisation of what God has ordained': "We continue to pray for the victims as good religious people in the country with the sense that it has been ordained by God that these things will happen."

Some observers had to ask: 'Why did he have to rush home from Zimbabwe to come and stop what 'God has ordained'? We too had to ask ourselves: Who is this 'God' that has been ordaining the

killing of Christians in Nigeria all these years? Who is this 'God' that does not want the gospel of peace to be preached but has always been after the necks of 'the good religious people in the country'?

The other 'theological question' General Babangida raised in his statement of 1988 is the definition of 'the family' and 'the household'. General Babangida is a Muslim. And we need to point out that according to the Islamic thought, there are two distinct households in the world: the Dar ul-Islam ("household of Islam"), and Dar ul-Harb ("household of non-Islam or war"). Because they are two distinct households, they surely don't have the same father. And because Christians are non Muslims, they naturally belong to the latter household, the Dar ul-Harb.

So, when Babangida says 'the family', or 'the household', one wonders whether he is referring to the different sects in Islam, or to Christians and Muslims? Can he prove to Muslims that they are in the same family or household with Christians? Does the Quran say so? Does the Hadith say so? When a Muslim kills a Christian, is he killing 'one another' or he is only getting rid of a kaferi (infidel)? All these questions must be answered from the Quran itself and the Hadith and not from mere modern religious opinions.

In a seminar paper presented at the National Association for Religious and Ethnic Tolerance (NARETO) Conference in Lagos in August 1992, General Ibrahim Babangida said, "Islam has a full-fledged philosophy of religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence." We have studied the Quran from cover to cover again and again; we have also read a number of the Hadiths. We have not yet seen such a philosophy. The only place any Muslim can confidently point to in the Quran is Surah 2:256 which says in part, "Let there be no compulsion in

religion". But we all know this statement was made at the early stage of Mohammed's mission, when he was just settling down in Yathrib (Medina). Such an attitude was necessary in order to get the co-operation of the Jewish tribes and Christians who were in the majority in Yathrib. Mohammed said he believed in all the Jewish prophets, and that he had not brought any new religion but the very things that the old prophets of Israel had preached. At that time, he did not have enough people to wage any war. When, however, he had raised enough military manpower, he began to launch out against those he suspected did not believe in his religion. Speaking as an oracle of Allah, Mohammed commanded that all those who opposed his message be killed or they should be nailed on a tree or their hands and legs be cut off, or they be driven out of the land. (Surah 5.36).

In Surah 47:4, Muslims are commanded by Allah to smite the necks of all those who do not accept the teachings of Islam until they are thoroughly subdued, and according to verse 7, they would be helping Allah by so doing. Others could be arrested and released only after paying a ransom. Surah 2:190-191, Surah 9:19-22, 29, 41 and several others, command true Muslims to fight those who oppose them or do not believe in the message of Islam: "So, when you meet (in fight — *Jihâd* in Allah's Cause), those who disbelieve smite at their necks till when you have killed and wounded many of them, then bind a bond firmly (on them, i.e. take them as captives)." (Surah 47:4 Al Hilali).

It is important to stress again that much of our discussion on Islam is not from Western historians but from the Quran and Islamic traditions called the Hadith and from present experiences in many parts of the world. We advise the reader to check

these references because most Muslims are wont to accuse any non-Muslim writer of quoting the Quran out of context.

We wish to say, however, that even though there were many killings done by Muslims when the religion came to Yathrib, we can say authoritatively that not all Muslims were intending initially to fight their fellow Meccan kinsmen or to loot their caravans in order to spread a religion. In Surah 4:74-80, many Arab Muslims protested Mohammed's call for *Jihâd* (Muslim holy war). They protested, "Our Lord! Why hast thou ordered us to fight?". But Mohammed convinced them that his command was directly from Allah.

The Quran says *Jihâd* is, in fact, not just a religious duty but a commerce, a business! (Surah 61:10-13). The Quran only promises spiritual rewards, but in the Hadith², *Jihâd* is said to be "the best method of earning (blessings) both spiritual and temporal. If victory is won, there is enormous booty of a country, which cannot be equalled to any other source of income. If there is defeat or death, there is everlasting paradise". So, we conclude that *Jihâd* is NOT extremism, but normal in Islam.

A Christian Missionary once asked a Muslim man, "What if your son became a Christian? What would you do? I'd cut his throat," the Muslim said".³

Such may not be the case in most families. But it is very costly for anyone to be converted to the Christian faith from an Islamic family. With our experience of working among Muslims in many parts of the world, we can say that the greatest hindrance

2 *Mishkat Masabih* Vol II, Page 253, cited in Gerhard Nehls, A guide to Muslim Evangelism, Life Challenge, Nairobi p.4

3 Sumrall, Lester: *Where was God when Pagan Religions Began?* Thomas Nelson, Nashville (1980) p138

to a Muslim's decision to follow Christ is FEAR — fear of what other Muslims would do to him or her. Even when a Muslim is convicted of his sins, or is convinced of the truth of the Christian faith, he still fears the implications of conversion. Most former Muslims who are Christians today have stories to tell in this regard. Many of them are disowned. We have known of a specific case of parents poisoning their daughter for denouncing Islam and becoming a Christian. Even at the time of this editing, we have a case of a lady whose Muslim parents and relatives are threatening her to renounce her new faith in Christ and re-embrace Islam or face the consequences. A letter from Sokoto in Nigeria says: "A man here got converted ... and since he still lived in the family house, his parents (as usual here) parked all his personal belongings and set fire to them while he was away at his job".

We must never imagine that such Muslims are being unnecessarily wicked. They are simply being faithful to their religion. The fact is never hidden as to the attitude a good Muslim should have towards Christians and Jews. In fact, much of the incitement to violence and war in the whole of the Quran is directed against the Jews and Christians who rejected what they felt to be the strange god Mohammed was trying to preach. It wasn't long before pagan Arabians submitted to Islam since Allah was one of the several gods of the people. But Jews and Christians were recalcitrant, feeling they had a better God. They were slow and reluctant to accept one of the pantheons of Arabia. They probably remembered the Scripture that "*ALL the gods of the people* (in whatever guise) *are idols:*" (1 Chronicles 16:26). In plain terms, therefore, Mohammed or Allah (or whoever is speaking in the Quran) says:

"O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians as '*Auliyâ*' (friends, protectors, helpers etc.), they are but '*Auliyâ*' to one another. And if any amongst you takes them as '*Auliyâ*' then surely he is one of them. Verily, Allah guides not those people who are the *Zâlimûn* (polytheists and wrongdoers and unjust)" (Surah 5:51 Al Hilali. Verse 54, Yusuf Ali).

In other words, any Muslim who becomes a Christian or even befriends a Christian leaves the leadership and control of Allah.

So, all Islamic leaders who come to British and American Church leaders for inter-faith co-operation are either defying the instructions of Allah or they have a hidden agenda. The Islam of the 7th century A.D. is the same today, probably under new guises as the situation demands. It is the same tactic of "No compulsion in religion" that Mohammed first adapted to Christians and Jews, that Muslims are using in the Western world today. Migrate to Christian areas because they are tolerant. Pretend to be peaceful, friendly and hospitable; begin to clamour for religious, political and social rights and privileges that you will not allow to Christians in an Islamic country; breed fast there and settle down; there should be no Christian activities in your community; you may speak or write to discredit their religion, but they must not talk about Islam; begin to expand your community; Christian activities should be restricted in all the places you expand to; the moment you have enough military might against these 'disbelievers', these trinitarian kaferis, go ahead and eliminate them or suppress them as much as you can, and be in control. Where immediate invasion is not possible, that has always been the policy.

There are so many incitements against Christians and non-Muslims running through the pages of the Quran that we find it hard to believe that anybody can

be a real practising Muslim now or then and not hate Christians. It is impossible. Any Muslim who is not violent (secretly or openly) is hardly a real Muslim, at least not in the Quranic sense. It means he has not got the spirit of Islam. A typical practising Muslim must be violent, especially if he expects to get any reward in the Muslim heaven: "Let those who fight in the way of Allah who sell the life of this world for the other. Whoso fighteth in the way of Allah, be he slain or be he victorious, on him We shall bestow a vast reward.. Hast thou not seen those unto whom it was said: Withhold your hands, establish worship and pay the poor-due, but when fighting was prescribed for them behold! a party of them fear mankind even as their fear of Allah or with greater fear," (Surah 4:74, 77 Pickthall).

If words have meaning, then we can confidently say from the quotation above that submission to Allah (Islam) is not just in prayers and zakat as some would want us to believe, but in obedience to the order for killing in order to spread Islam. That is the Islam of Mohammed. We have an overwhelming monument of evidence from both the Quran and the Hadith to prove our claims here. For want of space, we can give only a few more examples. In the Hadith⁴ the mother of Haritha was assured by Mohammed that Haritha had attained the highest garden in paradise because he had died in battle. In the same Hadith Mohammed also said:

"No warlike party or body of troops will go out to fight, gain booty and return safe without getting beforehand two-thirds of their rewards in full".

"He who dies without having fought, or having felt it to be his duty will die guilty of a kind of hypocrisy".

⁴ Mishkat al Masabih Sh. M. Ashraf (1990) pp.147, 721, 810, 811, 1130.

"There is no emigration after the Conquest, but only *Jihâd* and some good intention; so when you are summoned to fight, go forth".

"The last hour will not come before the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims kill them".

"Three people are all in God's safekeeping: a man who goes out to fight in God's path, who is in God's safekeeping till He takes his soul and brings him to paradise, or sends him home with the reward or booty he has obtained...".

Abu Dharr said he asked the Prophet what action was most excellent, and he replied, "Faith in God and *Jihâd* (fighting) in His path".

Those Liberal Muslim scholars who are getting embarrassed with the amount of terrorism being perpetrated in the world today by Muslims try to explain *Jihâd* away, saying physical fighting was never part of the 'original' Islam, and that this was a misinterpretation of Allah's injunction by some fanatical Muslims of this generation. In the light of the above clear instructions in both the Quran and the Hadith, such scholars have no case.

As for many Westerners who are bothered about Islamic terrorism in the world today, it is because they are so engrossed with technology that they forget history. Dr Jane Smith of Harvard University has clearly shown in a dissertation that even the term "Islam" did not originally mean "submission". Also in *The Spiritual Background of Islam*, Middle East scholar Dr M. Bravmann reveals that the term 'Islam' did not originally mean Mohammed's religion or that of any Jewish patriarchal religion as claimed by Muslims. According to Dr Bravmann, the word "Islam" was "a secular concept denoting a sublime virtue in the eyes of the primitive Arab; defiance of death, heroism; to die in battle". The term denoted bravery in battle. It did not mean peace or submission.

Marshal Hodgson reminds us that the English word "assassin" is purely of Arabic origin. It was originally "Hashshashin", (or assassinus in Latin) meaning 'smokers of hashish'. It referred to a certain sect of Muslims in the 11th–13th centuries who took hashish (hemp) to receive enough energy to fight for Allah by killing non-Muslims.

In this Chapter, we intend to show that Islam, past or present, is not what many people say it is. Mohammed's wealthy wife, Khadija bint Khuwaylid, and his powerful uncle, Abu Talib, both of whom Meccans had been afraid of, died in the same year — in fact, within thirty days of each other. This was a big blow to Mohammed. He felt insecure and this was the reason why he had to flee to Taif and later to Yathrib (Medina). Those who had fled with him soon settled down. The people of Yathrib had welcomed them and had been generous to them. But this could not continue forever.

Life soon became difficult for these settlers economically, and they had to survive. Mohammed therefore felt that he had to take revenge on the Meccan merchants for the hostility he had suffered in Mecca. But because of their ethnic affiliation, as we have noted earlier, many of the Muslims did not see why they should attack and loot their own tribesmen in order to survive or because of a religion. But a revelation came to Mohammed from Allah to justify this first mobilisation for *Jihâd*. And so, in Surah 2:216, we read, "*Jihâd* (Islamic holy war) is ordained for you (Muslims) though you dislike it, and it may be that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you like a thing which is bad for you. Allah knows but you do not know." (Al Hilali).

With this revelation, Muslims set out on their first *Jihâd* and defeated these Meccans and looted them. The booty carried from the Meccans served as an

encouragement for Muslims for further *Jihâds*. The Meccans in retaliation, mobilised about 1,000 fighters against Mohammed. With only about 300 people, the Muslims tactically defeated the Meccans. This was the battle of BaDr. These victories seemed to prove that Allah was supporting them, and that Mohammed was truly sent.

Later, covenants were made between Mohammed and the Meccans not to fight for a certain number of years. All these covenants were cancelled by Mohammed together with those made with the Jews in Yathrib. Let us hear this in the words of Shaykh (Sheikh) Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Hamid of the Sacred Mosque of Mecca:

"Then Allah revealed in Surah Bara'at (Repentance, IX) the order to discard (all) obligations (covenants), etc, and commanded the Muslims to fight all the pagans as well as against the people of the Scriptures (Jews and Christians) if they do not embrace Islam, till they pay the Jizya (A tax levied on those who do not embrace Islam...) Muslims were not permitted to abandon 'the fighting' against them (pagans, Jews and Christians) and to reconcile with them and to suspend hostilities against them for an unlimited period while they are strong and have the possibility of fighting against them." Here, the reason for killing Christians and Jews is clear: '**if they do not** embrace Islam'. This is contrary to what some modern Muslim revisionists claim. *Jihâd* against Christians was NOT defensive but offensive, and we need to emphasise this (Surah 9:29, 123).

Shaykh bin Hamid continues: "So at first, 'the fighting' was FORBIDDEN, then it was PERMITTED, and after that it was made OBLIGATORY — Allah made 'the fighting' (*Jihâd*) obligatory for Muslims and gave importance to the subject matter of *Jihâd* in ALL the Surahs which were revealed (at Medina) as it is in Allah's statement: 'March forth whether you

are light (being healthy, young and wealthy) or heavy (being ill, old and poor) and strive hard with your wealth and your lives in the cause of Allah. That is better for you if you (but) knew'" (Surah 9:41).

Many Muslims do not like reading about the violence in Islam as they believe this is a misrepresentation. But can they ignore their history? Mohammed not only commanded wars, but was also involved in person. During his life time, alone, sixty-six battles were fought by his army, of which he personally led twenty-seven. It was on a battle ground (Battle of Uhud, 625 A.D.) that Mohammed broke one of his teeth. Some traditions say two front teeth. Some say that the wars were political rather than religious. From the quotations above, we know that such a claim has no foundation. In any case, Islam draws no distinction between religion and politics.

A number of writers who criticise Islam today have lost their freedom; some even losing their lives in Islamic countries. Egyptian writer, Farag Fouda, was murdered early in 1992 by Muslims for criticising Islamic militancy. The Speaker of that country's Parliament was also assassinated in 1990 for his anti-Islamic stance, and the militant Muslims claimed responsibility. Muslims never like anybody going into the real history of their religion. But these are no strange things. Among the first blood shed by Mohammed's followers in Medina was that of a poetess, Asma, daughter of Merwan and wife of Yazid bin Zaid. According to Ibn Ishaq in his monumental work *Suraht'l Rasul*, translated by Ibn Hisham as *The Life of the Prophet*, Mrs. Asma Yazid had composed and popularized some poems to ridicule the people of Medina for following a man who has slain 49 of his own tribesmen at Badr and looted their caravan in order to establish a religion. This woman was stabbed on her bed. The assignment

was carried out by 'Umayr ibn 'Awf. In the words of Muslim scholar Muhammad Haykal, "'Umayr ibn Awf attacked her during the night while she was surrounded by her children, one of whom she was nursing. 'Umayr was weak of sight and had to grope for her. After removing the child from his victim, he killed her; he then proceeded to the Prophet and informed him of what he had done.'⁵ He received a commendation for having done a good job for Allah. About three other poets who could not be silent had their necks face the sharp edge of the Islamic sword and soon lost their heads. One of them was Abu 'AFak.

Another poet (and soldier), Abbas, was to face a similar judgment. It was after the Battle of Honain. The problem arose as to the way Mohammed shared the booty. Abbas, said to be a 'lukewarm convert', grumbled about the Apostle's arithmetic of sharing the booty, and registered his complaint in a few verses. "The Apostle overheard him and said with a smile, 'Take that man from here and cut out his tongue'."⁶

Even though Ayatollah Khomeini belonged to the Shiite sect of Islam, he was generally regarded as an exemplary Muslim of our time. Following the footsteps of the prophet of Allah in establishing an Islamic state, Khomeini slaughtered more people during the first few years of his reign than were killed during all the years of his predecessor, Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi. After all the massacres of non-Muslims in Persia (present Iran), Khomeini said: "In Persia no people have been killed so far — only beasts!"

5 Haykal, M. *The Life of Mohammed*. Lagos: Islamic Publications Bureau (1982)

6 Khan, M. Ebrahim. *Anecdotes from Islam*, Sh. Muhammad Ashraf, Lahore (1960) p.20

On another occasion, this servant of Allah said: "The purest joy in Islam is to kill and be killed for Allah." Early in 1984 Ayatollah Khomeini was quoted as saying: "In order to achieve the victory of Islam in the world, we need to provoke repeated crises, restore value to the idea of death and martyrdom. If Iran has to vanish that is not important. The important thing is to engulf the world in crises".⁸ From our studies of the Quran so far, was Khomeini sounding un-quranic or un-allahic? Was he being fanatical?

Serious Muslims are morbidly worried about the way Christianity is growing today. The South African Muslim jihadi⁹ Ahmed Deedat, is concerned that: "Kuwait (a Muslim country) had just one Arab Christian family about fifty years ago. Today there are thirty-five churches in that little country".¹⁰ He is obsessed that in the Muslim country of Indonesia, there are over 1000 full-time foreign Christian missionaries "harassing" non-Christians. He decries the way Christianity is growing, especially in Africa, and therefore reminds Muslims to go back to the original Islam given by Allah in the Quran: "Our armour, sword and shield in this battle of Faiths are in the Koran, we have been chanting it for centuries... now we must bring them forth into the battlefield".¹⁰

What are the "armour, sword and shield in this battle of faiths"?

They are physical armour, physical swords and all available modern weapons of warfare. Shaykh

⁷ Lamb, David: *The Arabs*, Random House, New York (1987) p287

⁸ *Le Point Magazine*, No. 599, 12 March, 1984, pp 89,91

⁹ Deedat, Ahmed, *What is his Name?* Islamic Propagation Centre, Durban, (1986) p.13

¹⁰ Deedat, A. op cit. p.14

Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Hamid, quoted earlier, explains:

"To get ready (for *Jihâd*) includes various kinds of preparations and weapons. Tanks, missiles, artillery, aeroplanes, naval ships etc, and the training of the soldiers in these instruments of war are all included under the word 'force', (to include land force, navy and air-force)". In a way, Khomeini, Deedat, and other real Muslims are right. How can Islam spread otherwise? What message of salvation have they to offer convincingly to a sinning world than to repeat 'la-illaha il allah' a million times? Is the modern man not getting sick of this chanting? Perhaps they should use their oil money to build many multi-million dollar mosques all over the world to give an impression that Islam is spreading everywhere. The policy is, 'let there be mosques everywhere' — even if there are no people to occupy them. Within a period of only five years (1985-1990), Muslims erected 5,002 mosques in Ethiopia alone. In 1945, only one mosque was to be found in the whole of England. In 1990 over 1,000 mosques are scattered all over the country. In 1974, there was only one mosque in France. Today, more than 1,700 have been built there.

Even though Muslims claim that they are serving the same God as Christians, yet in reality, they see Christianity as the greatest threat to the incursion of Islam in any land. Despite the apostasy in the Western world, Christianity is still growing at an alarming rate, and Muslims are aware of this. Hundreds of thousands of converts are being made into the Christian faith every year in the free world, and ironically, millions in Communist China. A 1988 survey by Newsweek magazine shows Latin Americans coming to Christ en masse everyday. How can Christian activities be countered by Muslims?

Apart from proliferating mosques, one alternative, especially in Africa, is to entice nominal Christian girls with money, stockfish, job, and marry them, and then convert them to Islam. Muslim youths who succeed in marrying Christian girls are rewarded. Huge sums of money are offered to people to convert them to Islam. The targets for conversion are those with some 'Christian' background — Jehovah Witnesses and Catholics or some other nominal Christians. A report from a friend in Tanzania says, "It's common knowledge in our area that you can gain a TSH 25,000/- reward for winning over a Christian to become a Muslim, and TSH 100,000/- if you succeed in converting a pastor or priest to Islam."

An alternative for multiplying is to have several wives and produce more Muslim children to overpopulate the world and then claim the Muslim population to be in the hundreds of millions. According to a U.N. report, the world population in the '90s is growing at the rate of three babies per second (and Muslims have a fair share of this). While an American or European will have one wife and one or two children, Muslims worldwide reproduce themselves in great numbers every year. It is estimated that the Islamic world produces 25 million babies annually. That is a way of Islamising the world! Biological evangelisation! And this must never be sneered at. Muslims are confident that with liberal immigration laws in the U.S.A., Europe and the U.K., in particular, they will soon be in the majority and a strong force to be reckoned with, politically.

Another possibility is to woo poor nations with oil money and initiate them into the Organization of Islamic Conferences (O.I.C.). It is a simple principle: he that controls your stomach controls your life. Even in the West, the huge investment of Arab petro-dollars is gradually enslaving us.

But these alternatives are not bringing the best results. Christianity is spreading everywhere. Muslim

youths are turning from what some of them regard as an 'empty monotonous religiosity' and opting for something more real and vivacious in Christianity. Many young Muslim ladies are now renouncing their Islamic names. Many of them consider their marital role in Islam and opt for Christianity. Some Imams and great alhajis and alhajas are declaring Jesus as Lord.

Nigerian Christians are facing tense opposition from Islam now because of the phenomenal growth of the Gospel in that country, and the rate at which Muslims are getting converted to the Christian faith. The Church in Nigeria is an aggressively praying Church and this has been a key factor behind the present success of mission and evangelistic works in that country. The devil is not unaware of this, and he can't simply sit down and do nothing. It is not uncommon in Northern Nigeria to hear of "Reverend Ahmed Abdkadir" or "Pastor Sanni Abubakar Yusuf". Nothing can be more annoying to Islamic leaders than this.

To ensure the victory of Islam, therefore, something drastic has to be done. How did the religion spread in its early stage? Genuine Muslims must return to the effective Islam of Mohammed. Who is a real Muslim? "It is only those who believe not in Allah and the Last Day and whose hearts are in doubt that ask your leave (to be exempted from *Jihâd*)."
 (Surah 9:45 Al Hilali). This means that claiming to be a real Muslim and refusing to engage in physical fighting is apostasy.

In the Preface to *The Call of Jihâd*, Mallam M. Salih exclaims: "What a hypocrite is a man who regards the *Jihâd* as an antiquated duty in Islam."

As a matter of fact, there are no intolerant or fanatical extremes of Islam. All violent acts and vandalism that may be, are only normal to the religion.

The so-called fanatical Muslims are the real Muslims. Yes, the Maitatsinis, the Zalla, the Muslim youth organizations and their sponsors, al-Jihâd groups in Lebanon, al-Mujahideens of Iran, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and some other countries, the Muslim Students Society (MSS), the Jamat'ul Nasril Islamiyya (JNI), etc. — these are the Genuine Muslims. They must establish the kingdom of God on earth.

Their understanding of the kingdom of God is radically different from that of the Bible. The Bible says 'the meek shall inherit the earth'. Christ Himself said, '*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*' Islam says no, you cannot be meek and inherit the earth; the believer must rise up now and overthrow the government and be in control. The Quran says, "might belongeth to Allah and to His messenger and the believers;" (Surah 63:8 Pickthall). It is therefore necessary for the Genuine Muslim to cause *fitna* (anarchy, trouble) until a pure kingdom of Allah is established in a land. That was the spirit of the Revolution that brought Khomeini to power; it is the spirit driving the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Alawites in Syria. It is the Islam of Mohammed and the world must no longer misunderstand their violent actions. When Muslims destroyed Churches and killed Christians in Kaduna State, Nigeria, in 1987, a panel was set up by the government to investigate the issue. All parties involved in the incident were asked to submit memoranda to the panel. In Section 4, subsection (C) of its own memorandum, the Jarna'atu Nasril Islamiyya (JNI) said: "It is very often found that people who are ignorant of Islam and Muslims have wrong impressions of the Muslims. Such ignorant Christians give Muslims all sorts of bad names such as 'fundamentalists', 'fanatics,' etc as a quality for any faithful Muslims who believe in living according

to Islamic injunctions. Muslims who are not serious about their religion are regarded as progressive. If the Christians knew Islam well, they would not waste their time trying to stand in their way as they would realize that ... nothing could stand in the way of the real faithful Muslims."

We can understand the irony and the undertone here. These are the genuine Muslims. The fact is that it is we Christians that have been ignorant of what really faithful Muslims are supposed to be, and we should be really sorry for such ignorance. It has become a tradition for most leaders in Africa and in many parts of the world during Muslim festival periods to send messages to Muslims to follow the example of the prophet Mohammed and obey Allah, and then have religious tolerance. Either these leaders are yet to know what Islam is, or they are just trying to say something to make news during every Sallah period. It is utterly impossible to follow Mohammed's example in the Hadiths and obey his Allah in the Quran and then be peaceful, tolerant and submissive to a government that is not entirely Islamic.

Even in a country like Egypt where all the key leaders are Muslims, there will still be unrest among Muslims until a pure Islamic government is established and imposed on all other people in the land. So long as Coptic Christians remain in the land and their churches are still visible, Muslims will never rest. In September 1981, the Muslims went on an onslaught against the Copts and left 50 dead. Because of this, the then President, Anwar Sadat, ordered a wave of arrests and trials of fundamentalists. A month later, an underground Islamic group assassinated him.

Hosni Mubarak, who is trying to present himself as a strict upholder of Islamic values in order to pacify the Jihâdist, is soon discovering the futility of such thinking. The militants are trying to destroy

his rule and establish a pure Islamic rule in the land. To this end, tourism, the mainstay of the Egyptian economy, is being disrupted. This is being done by killing Western tourists visiting the historical monuments in Upper Egypt. In mid-October 1992, a British tourist was killed with a machine gun. The *Middle East* magazine reported that the Islamic militants "opened fire on a Nile cruise ship carrying 140 German tourists ... And on Oct. 25, three Russian tourists were stabbed in the Mediterranean town of Port Said".

There is no President's message that can change a genuine Muslim in the area of violence and anger. What a Muslim needs is a spirito-surgical operation — an operation done by the Holy Spirit of God on the spirit or heart of man — a complete overhaul of the heart. It is a spiritual heart-transplant, a transplantation of a new nature, a new gene. That is why it is known as a re-gene-ration. It is what Jesus simply calls being born again (John 3:3).

At Christmas and Easter times, our political leaders make their traditional messages to Christians to be peaceful. We thank them for such messages. But Christians do not need a politician or a uniformed man to tell them to be peaceful. We have enough pastors who can do that better under the anointing of God. It is not a speech by some press secretary that can make a Christian peaceful or holy, for our God teaches us not only to "*follow peace with all men*," but also to "*turn the other cheek*" even in the face of provocation! "*But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek, offer also the other;*" (Luke 6:27-29).

That indeed sounds outlandish, but it is one of the teachings of our own Saviour. No religion can

preach that. Jesus Himself demonstrated this by laying down His life so that those who believe in Him might have eternal life. He is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. And as sheep, we have no horns to fight, nor upper teeth to bite. God is the One that fights on our behalf. We do not need a politician to tell us that. It seems many of our leaders condone or even promote Islam and yet tell Muslims to be peaceful. Until a Muslim is born again, he can hardly be peaceful. To imagine a really peaceful and gentle Muslim is like imagining a weightless stone, a round square or an elastic glass. You can trust a Muslim to be a Muslim. As we have seen, in the Quran, Mohammed, quoting Allah, said: "Fight against those who believe not in Allah...and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (i.e. Islam) among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) until they pay the *Jizya*" (Surah 9:29 Al Hilali). In Surah 4:89, Allah commands that any person who leaves Islam or encourages others to do so, should be seized and slain. That is the main reason why Muslims are very much afraid of being converted to Christianity.

Now, if by believing and practising the gospel of Jesus Christ I become the enemy of Allah, who could this Allah be? Who is this Allah that is so offended by the gospel of Christ? Can he be the God of the Bible who singled out Jesus in the midst of the two greatest prophets of the Bible, and then marked Him out as "*This is my beloved Son: hear Him*" (Luke 9:35)? If by "hearing Him" we offend an Allah, don't we have good reasons to probe the identity of this Allah? "Send missionaries to Burundi, Zaire, Uganda...to combat the evil activities of Christian missionaries there," said Muammar Ghaddafi of Libya. "God wants you to fight in one rank and he who does not do this is outside Islam and God will not let him

enter paradise... You must incite Muslims in Zaire and urge them to engage in *Jihâd* so that Mobutu may be toppled. He who kills this man will go to paradise".¹¹ Woe to the nation ruled by such a 'God'!

In a very prophetic utterance, Jesus said concerning Christians: "*the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.*" (John 16:2-3). This simply means that the Allah our killers claim to know as God may not be the real Father. And this is why we have to take the pains and patience to find out who this god of Islam is. A Muslim need not get upset by such a venture. It is necessary.

The Nigerian Experience

As Islam was practised by Mohammed, so it is today. No extremism. In fact, there is less carnage today than then. This is obviously because there are civil and criminal laws and orders that handicap any savage behaviour in the name of religion. Nigeria has seen practical Islam; and there are too many cases for us to cite. We shall recall only a few of the more recent ones. We remember the 1980 Maitatsine Islamic uproar in Kano during which 4,177 people were officially reported as slaughtered with property worth millions of dollars destroyed. Two years later, on October 30, 1982, eight big Churches were burnt in Kano. That same year the Muslims struck in Kaduna and 400 people were officially reported as killed. In October of the same year, members of the Muslim Students Society (MSS) struck in Sabon Gari in Kano and killed two people. Many of the killings were not just of Christians but also of the people of different sects in the same religion of Islam.

¹¹ *Nigerian Sunday Punch*, 26 January, 1986

In 1984, Muslims in Yola and Jimeta went berserk and killed 700 including policemen, and 5,913 people were rendered homeless. They also besieged Gombe and more than 100 people were killed.¹²

On May 3, 1986, the Muslim students of the then University of Sokoto went on a rampage attacking other students with dangerous weapons. While these Muslim students were still boiling in Sokoto, their counterparts in Ibadan were setting fire to the sculpture of Jesus in the Chapel of the Resurrection at the University of Ibadan. The following year, March 6, 1987, at the College of Education, Kafanchan in Kaduna State, Muslims went on a rampage they expected would spread to the South. This engulfed Kafanchan itself, Kaduna and Zaria. Of all the 150 churches in Zaria alone, only one escaped being burnt down in three days of *Jihâd* in that town. Many Christians were slain in cold blood while some were burnt alive. Many houses belonging to Christians and cars with Christian stickers were burnt in those cities. This writer was in Kaduna and Zaria to see things for himself. The immediate cause of the riot: A female Muslim student of the college accused Reverend Abubakar Bako, a former Muslim, of 'misinterpreting' the Quran, in his preaching. No non-Muslim must quote from the Quran, even though a Muslim can quote from the Bible. For them, a person who is not a Muslim cannot understand what the Quran says on any issue.

During this crisis, the Chaplain of the Ahmadu Bello University, Kongo Campus, Dr Ben Oruma, the man whose ministry in the Chapel has helped in depopulating the Muslim students in the university, was one of their main targets of assassination. From his house, he was pursued for several miles. Then, finally, they got him, slashed his body with

12 *Times International*, Lagos 19th March 1984 p.6

knives; macheted and clobbered him. "They thought that they had finished me," said Dr Oruma, "And as they were going, I faintly heard them chanting 'Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar'" i.e. Allah is greater, Allah is greater... that is, for handing over his enemy into their hands.

It would be impossible for this book to contain reports of all the atrocities perpetrated in Nigeria by Muslims since the Uthman Dan Fodio *Jihâd* in 1804. Yet such horrors must never be taken as extremism. One of the aims of this book is to show that violence in Islam is both a doctrine and a person. In Christianity, peace is also both a teaching to obey and a Person to possess. When one is possessed with any of these 'persons', one can't help but behave accordingly. Try to find a genuine committed Muslim who is peaceful and gentle, and you may soon discover that if you press a button in his life, his real nature will manifest. The seemingly most peaceful among them have proved this to us. But they have killed us only to embolden us. Our voice is louder at death than in life. Thousands of us have been slaughtered; but Muslims must never think they have succeeded in silencing us.

One thing must be clear, however, and Muslims in the West must take note. We are not going to wait for Islam to stifle us and enslave our free nations as they did in North Africa, and in many other places in the world where it has become an offence to openly confess the Christian faith or convert a person to Christianity. Muslims need to beware; our God will not forget centuries of repeated assaults by Muslims and He will bring every one to justice. We hope any responsible government will take a serious caution from here. As merciful as our God is, He never forgives anyone who does not acknowledge his sins and repent. Muslims have not repented and they must

therefore not think they can continue in their savagery unchecked.

In 1991 and 1992 there were three more riots by Muslims in Katsina, Bauchi and Kano during which thousands lost their lives. In Bauchi, the immediate cause was the sale of roasted pork or suya by a Christian, in Tafawa Balewa, a Christian area, which a Muslim bought and allegedly ate. The meat seller was killed for 'tempting' the Muslim. Hundreds of souls from both sides died in the riots that followed.

In Kano, the Muslims were rioting to protest against a proposed Christian evangelistic programme by the German preacher, Reinhard Bonnke. Many unprintable atrocities were reported. Two members of the Nigerian publishers of this book went to Kano immediately after the riot. One of the stories making its rounds in the city then was that of a pregnant woman whom some Jihâdist s reportedly dragged out of a hospital, slashed her womb with a dagger and flung out 'the infidel thing inside her'. A team of *The Nigerian Newswatch* magazine who went to cover the butchery wrote that it would be against decency to publish some of the pictures they took in Kano. It seems we easily forget history, and by that we can put our generation and our posterity in danger. This book is dedicated to an elder of the ECWA Church, Tundun Wada, in Kaduna, whom Muslims burnt to death together with his church during the 1987 riots. This church was rebuilt at the cost of N500,000. In May 1992 Muslims burnt the church again. There was a Christian play going on in the church that evening. A band of Muslims just came, surrounded it and set the church on fire, killing at least 20 people inside. The assistant secretary, Musa Bakut, was not there; but the Muslims went to look for him in his house and slaughtered him and his son, burnt his car and left his wife half dead. They

decided not to finish her because they suddenly remembered that Allah says they should not kill women or little children. All this was during the Zango kataf Kaduna riots, which — we are repeatedly told — had nothing to do with religion.

The Philosophy Of Peace

We are aware there are as many opinions as there are people in the world. There are those who may sympathize with Christians for the damage being done to them by the Muslims, and yet believe that to probe the Muslim god would be extreme. For such people, a book such as this will be seen as offensive. They do not realise that *even the Bible* is offensive to Muslims. They believe Christians should remain silent or just simply complain in their rooms. A writer should respect others' religion and their feelings? He should be tolerant — that is to remain silent even though his very right to existence is taken away. He does allow peace to reign!

People with such opinions surely do not understand what peace means in Islam. There is a Jewish ballad that tells of a sardine swimming off the shores of Eilat. He meets a shark and humbly says the normal greeting, *shalom* or peace. To avoid any clash, the sardine gives up his tail, some fins, some scales but it seems all these avail nothing. Now, for a real and lasting peace, he surrenders everything. The shark nods in agreement and utters the word 'peace', opens his mouth and swallows the sardine whole. That is the peace, the lasting peace.

In government offices in Northern Nigeria, the Christian's fins, tail and scales have been chopped off by his Muslim boss. His schools (where the Muslim big man was also educated), as well as his hospitals, have been taken over and given Islamic names. But all this is not the lasting peace.

For Islam, peace or 'salaam' is not achieved until Islam has swallowed the nation. Peace means total eradication of enemies. It means subjugating, killing or swallowing all non-conformists. Nobody should therefore ever imagine 'giving peace a chance' in a nation with a significant number of Muslims.

As Richard Wurmbrand has said, Christians are not going to quarrel, but we are not going to allow anybody to swallow us either. "Children of God are too valuable a species; we have to survive... while we must loathe war, we also had to defeat Hitler, the lover of war."¹³

Late in 1989, key Muslim leaders from all over Africa gathered in Nigeria. One of the resolutions was to establish 'The Islam in Africa Organisation' (IAO). The IAO was founded, and Nigeria was made its 'permanent headquarters'. Members concluded: "We are ready to go any length to get Sharia established in this country whether we are alive or dead."¹⁴

Should Christians be silent so that we do not provoke a riot? Muslims do not need to be provoked. For them, it does not take two to fight. If they have to obey the injunctions of Allah in the Quran and follow Mohammed's examples and instructions in the Hadith, they do not have to be provoked. Genuine Muslims are always meditating on what next to do to 'convert' the enemies of Allah. For them, everybody must be judged by Sharia, the law of Allah.

Muslim leaders are now working very hard to engulf not only Africa but the Western world. Billions of petro-dollars are being spent to erect mosques in Britain, Europe, Australia and the United States. When the International Islamic Conference was held in Britain in 1976, Muslims

13 Wurmbrand, R. *A Hundred Meditations*, p.142

14 *Daily Sketch*, Ibadab, December 14, 1989, p. 8

determined and vowed, "If we can win London for Islam, it won't be hard to win the whole Western world."

Most English people do not even imagine the possibility of Muslims realising such an aspiration. But the progress Islam has made in Britain is great. Over 1000 mosques are already here. Because of our Christian heritage God's blessing has made the western nations relatively prosperous. Many Muslims, seeing the economic benefits, are fleeing to the West. But instead of us presenting the gospel to them, Muslims are being encouraged to establish mosques and madrassas and continue their religion here. We may think we are helping them; but we are not. Instead of these people settling down to begin a new and quiet life in the free world, they are now demanding an Islamic Parliament. Their clamour has been influencing the British Lawmakers in many areas especially concerning the status of Christianity and Islam in the land. They are also calling for laws in Britain to amputate the hands of thieves as is done in Islamic countries, making Sharia operative in the Western world. If Muslims are convinced that their god has to rule us in the free world, they should allow us to study that god and his manifestos and constitution thoroughly first; for the Bible says: "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.*" If the Muslim god is the Allah of the Islamic strongholds of the world where one cannot speak of freedom or fundamental human rights; if he is the god of Kuwait where a woman cannot vote, or the god of Saudi where a woman must not drive a car, or the god of Iran where a wife has to get an 'exit permit' from her husband before coming out of the house; if he is the inspirer of Mohammed and the speaker in the Quran, we in the free world would need some time to study him

first to determine whether or not we should allow him to rule our land.

The Western world, especially Britain, has an illusion of maintaining a standard of being fair to all, not wanting to annoy Muslims. The Australian Parliament is even trying to make a law against speaking anything against other people's religion. All this is hypocrisy because many things are said and written against biblical Christianity by the press all over the world, especially by Muslim writers, and nobody seems to object.

The aim of Islam is to engulf the world. As a matter of policy, Muslims do not want to be 'offended' or 'assaulted'; but they can go to any length to assault other religions, especially, Christianity. In Islamic countries, it is lawful for a Muslim to convert a Christian to Islam, but illegal, and in fact, a serious crime for a Christian to attempt to convert a Muslim from his faith to Christianity. In some countries, the Christian preacher may face a death penalty. Muslims believe they must claim the right to be building mosques everywhere in the West while it is legally unimaginable to allow churches in their own countries. It is a pretension of liberality and a serious mistake for our Lawmakers to take lightly the Islamic threats and terrorism in the West. If we take the attitude of 'live and let live' towards Islam, it will surely live; but it will live to destroy us!

The Right To Weep Aloud

Where Islam gets a foothold, it persecutes Christians and yet makes every attempt to silence the Church from commenting. It can wound and yet take away the right of the victim to cry. The Coptic Christians in Egypt have suffered continued persecution for centuries, and they are still under the same oppression of Muslims. In Nigeria alone in the last

few years, many Christians have been slaughtered. Do we have the freedom to weep? Having succeeded in slitting the throat of my brother, will they also prevent me from crying aloud?

Who is afraid of dying? Who is afraid of a threat from any quarter? “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:35-37). Nigerian Christians cannot be afraid of death again. Muslims have already killed them in great numbers — so much so, that religious riots are no longer really newsworthy in Nigeria.

If Muslims had no basis in the Quran and the Hadith for their violence, we would regard them as extremists. That is one of the reasons why we have to study the god that is speaking in the Quran and that has inspired them against us. We thank our God that the blood of the Christian martyrs has always been the strength of the church of Christ. Shedding the blood of a child of God because of his faith, has often led to revival in the Church.

We are not afraid. We win by losing; we conquer by dying. Augustine, describing the experience of the early Christians, said: “The martyrs were bound, jailed, scourged, racked, burned, rent, butchered... and they multiplied.” Hallelujah! This writer has worked in Nigeria and he can say that this, exactly, is what is happening in that land. More Muslims have been converted to Christianity in ten years of serious persecution than in all the past decades of dialogue put together. This is marvellous in our eyes. And now the devil is confused, regretting what he has done. But he has not seen anything yet. We are just starting.

This decade is very crucial in God's programme. Many attempts are being made to close doors to Christian ministry in many nations. But we are confident that now is the time that many of the captives of Islam in many seemingly impenetrable Islamic countries of the world will be set free by the power of the Holy Spirit. They may chain some of us but they cannot chain the Word of God. They may ban us from entering their country, but they cannot ban the Holy Spirit of God from penetrating and beginning to convict their captives.

All Islamic countries are in God's programme. They must all be represented in heaven (Revelation 7:9-10). But after the victory Jesus obtained for their salvation two thousand years ago, the devil is still holding them in the bondage of false religion and demonic influences. Billions have died in their sins and in a false hope. Any moment now, Christ will return to take his own, and God will release the cup of His wrath upon the world. But by His sovereignty, God is going to reach out to all these nations to save some by all means. He is going to do this because of His love. It is impossible for any security device to prevent this. It is impossible for persecution to prevent this. God is going to show Himself sovereign in these nations. Jesus said: "*Go ye therefore, and teach (or make disciples of) all nations...*" (Matthew 28:19). God is already giving us the necessary anointing and the required equipment to get the job done, and nothing can stop us. Speaking of rescuing the religiously enslaved folk, Jesus had said, "*how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?*" (Matthew 12:29), By the power of the Lord, and as God's Eagle Band, we are penetrating into the 'strongman's' bases to release his captives. "*And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his*

yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.” (Isaiah 10:27).

An Open Challenge

In our humble opinion, we don't think Muslims need to fight. Jesus had said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” The religious leaders of His days said, No. They crucified Him. But on the third day, He rose again, appeared to many in the very town of Jerusalem for forty full days before ascending to heaven bodily. He is still alive today in His majestic glory. This is to demonstrate that TRUTH has an inherent ability of defence and survival. As Christians, we have never been moved by the provocative Islamic pamphlets, audio and video cassettes of Ahmed Deedat and his elderly pupils in South Africa, and other parts of the world. We do not believe we have to make any noise or fight to defend the truth. Truth is always victorious.

Muslims, however, would want to defend Islam against criticism by any imaginable means. If the religion of Mohammed is ‘the Truth’ or even a truth of the Truth, Allah need not command that Muslims should take physical swords to preserve it. Jesus was crucified by fire-breathing Roman soldiers, yet He rose up again. I think the Islamic truth should be able to resurrect if crucified by mere writers. Let Muslims, therefore, relax and see what the printing press can do in crucifying their ‘truth’.

Who is afraid of the pen and who is afraid of the press? The truth of the Christian faith has undergone pen crucifixion for many centuries now; yet it is still alive, spreading everywhere without the force of arms. There is no day that no one is converted to the Bible truth. It is only in countries with Christian orientation and influence that a man is free to think in the way he likes and to believe what he wants to

believe. It is an offence to be a citizen of an Islamic country and believe and preach that Jesus is the Saviour. Christian literature and missionaries are not allowed. Why? If Muslims believe their 'truth' is invulnerable, let the Islamic world open its gates to Christian literature and to men and women, anointed and sent by the Holy Ghost, and let us see for the next decade what 'the Sword of the Spirit' can do to the heart of a Muslim in a free environment. Let us see what the anointing can do in breaking the yoke of falsehood. This is an open challenge! We don't need to fight.

Muslims write many things to attack the Christian faith. But they are made afraid when seeing a Christian approach the Quran with a critical knife. What we know is that a real truth is never afraid of a lie. It is a lie that fears the knowledge of the truth. That is why Christians are never afraid of a lie. We allow the mind to exercise itself to grasp the truth and then decide. No coercion. By the time one experiences the truth, one will never be afraid of a lie but simply deride it. It is a lie that will be afraid and suspicious of a revelation. This writer has read several books by agnostics, atheists, humanists, psychologists, communists and Muslim scholars. But an average Muslim is afraid of Christian literature. Someone tried to give the first edition of this book to a Muslim friend at the University of Reading, England. The Muslim student refused when he learnt that it was written by a Christian. Why? He was afraid he might be confronted with facts that may shatter his faith in Islam. The average Muslim is afraid even to touch Christian literature, especially, if it deals with Islam. He is even ready to slay the writer. Why? Because he wants to defend 'the truth'. But all we are saying is that truth, by its virtue, has the ability of defending itself! Moreover, a truth that is the truth is not the one that is worth

killing for boldly, but the one that is worth dying for willingly. A religion that is not worth dying for is not worth living for; yet a religious man must be sure he is not dying in a lie or a deception. That is why a Muslim must be patient to examine what is being presented in this treatise about the Allah that is speaking in the Quran.

Let Allah Contend

We have to defend our faith and our beliefs against falsehood, but why should we defend God or try to save his reputation? The worst we can do to a person who blasphemes our God is hand him over to Him for an immediate judgment. That was what Paul did on the Island of Paphos when a false prophet and sorcerer, Elymas, was trying to prevent the chief of the island from being converted. He received instant blindness (Acts 13:6-12). God defended His Word there.

Late in 1987 a Muslim decided to bulldoze the graves of certain white Christian missionaries at Ibi town in the Wukari Local Government Area of the present Taraba State of Nigeria in order to extend his estate. God spoke to a Christian to tell the Emir of Ibi to warn the man. The Emir was reluctant because of his religious leanings. On December 24, the graves were bulldozed. Immediately, a mysterious fire broke out. The bulldozer was the first victim. After the bulldozer, the fire selectively burned the property of several Muslims in that town. Only little children could see the approach of the fire to any of its targets. The invisible fire continued until March the following year. By January, the fire had already gutted about 400 houses, according to a report by a Northern Nigerian based secular newspaper, *The Reporter*, of January 30, 1988. By March, the number of houses affected had grown to about 3,000.¹⁵ Some Muslims

¹⁵ *Good News* magazine, April/May, 1988, Kaduna.

who had not been affected and were quick to realise that the fire was selective, went to hide their belongings in the nearby town and villages. But the fire could identify the properties from Ibi town and did justice to those properties leaving those of their hosts in the same houses intact! No Christians were affected. But a few Christians who dared sympathise with their Muslim friends immediately had a brush of the show. "A Muslim parent who beat his child for joining some Christians in a prayer meeting, had his house gutted that very evening."¹⁶

That sounds like a folktale in the 20th century? Yes, it is strange; but it was real. At least two secular newspapers reported this strange fire incident. At least three Christian publications reported it. Even the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA Lagos) reported it in the week-end programme *Newsline* and a committee of seismologists was set up by the Federal Government to investigate the cause and the extent of the damage of the mysterious fire. The Committee had no scientific explanation.

When all efforts, sacrifices and prayers sought by the Emir failed to stop the operation of the fire, and it became obvious that the Christian God was defending even the dry bones of His servants who had died as far back as 1904 and 1905. The Christians realised they must not sympathise with the Muslims, but they did not rejoice over what happened. All they did was to summon the people together and preach the gospel of peace and love to them. A Christian organisation, *Love Divine Ministry*, based in Kaduna was there. Over 400 people, most of them Muslims, were converted; and some of them came forward to say God had also healed them of certain physical diseases and disablement. The three-day visitation

16 Op. cit.

of the Holy Spirit in the area has been described as a rain of revival. We believe that people serving a great God do not have to defend such a God. A god worth the name should be able to defend himself and his followers. This reminds us of an event in the Old Testament which we can use to explain this further. When the people of Israel backslid and began to worship Baal, one of them, Gideon, rose up one night and destroyed the altar of Baal of which his father Joash was the priest. *"And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they inquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar."* (Judges 6:28-32).

We think the law of Joash, the priest of Baal, could be made an international law today: that whoever threatens the life of a blasphemer so-called should also be threatened; whoever kills, or promotes or instigates the killing of a supposed infidel or blasphemer or heretic should be killed. A nation that does so should be given a military sanction by a super-power. As far as we are concerned as Christians, **we do not have to defend our God.**

Muslims claim they can use violence if their god or prophet is blasphemed. If they are convinced a person is blaspheming their god or breaking down the altar of their religion through pen and paper, why don't they allow Allah to contend with the blasphemer? We think that would be the more religious thing to do. If Allah is a Saviour, why should they have to save him from the hand of an infidel? All they should do is to rename the kaferi 'Jerub-allah.' A God that needs to be fought for by weak human beings ceases to be the Almighty God. We therefore challenge our Muslim friends in all quarters to put down their cutlasses, swords, bombs and knives, matches and petrol, and let Allah fight his Christian enemies.

It Is A Sin To Help God!

There is the story of Uzzah in the Bible who wanted to help God. The ark of God was being carried on a cart to the City of David amidst 30,000 people singing and dancing: "*And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God*" (2 Samuel 6:6-7). You wonder what is happening? Here we see a zealous man who wanted to help the glory of God. He felt that God was about to be disgraced; he felt that God's reputation was at stake; he felt that the Lord who is enthroned between the cherubim in heaven could fall from His throne, and so "*Uzzah put forth his hand...*" and received instant judgment! Of course, God was not in the ark, but the ark represented His covenant with Israel and His glory. God can never fall from His throne! No idolater, no philosopher, no Islamic or non-Islamic writer can fell God.

If Muslims think their Allah is indeed God, let them allow him to defend himself and contend with his enemies. If Allah is God and Muslims are defending his reputation, they must know that they are incurring the wrath of God upon themselves. It is like saying, "Oh my, Allah is helpless and I must do something or his reputation will crumble." That would be irreverent!